



American Water Works Association

Dedicated to Safe Drinking Water

(202) 628-8303
Fax (202) 628-2846
www.awwa.org

1401 New York Avenue, NW Suite 640
Washington, DC 20005

June 30, 2003

Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Ex Parte Notice*
Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band and
Consolidating the 900 MHz Industrial / Land Transportation and Business
Pool Channels (Proceeding 02-55)

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Attached please find an *ex parte* written submission in the above-referenced docket. The document originally was submitted to the Commission on May 29, 2003, by the 800 MHz User Coalition. The 800 MHz User Coalition represents a broad cross-section of users of the 800 MHz band. As noted in the May 29, 2003 filing, additional parties were expected to join the Coalition. The American Water Works Association (AWWA), a technical and education association representing more than 4,700 drinking water utilities, now joins the 800 MHz User Coalition in support of the alternative proposal to the so-called "Consensus Plan" currently being considered by the Commission. Drinking water utilities are critical infrastructure entities with a vital interest in the 800 MHz band.

The 800 MHz User Coalition's proposal consists of three components:

1. Statement of principles that provide a sound basis for action,
2. Set of specific procedures for identifying and eliminating interference to incumbent users, and
3. Specific changes to the technical rules for the 806-824/851-869 MHz frequency band to prevent future harmful interference to Public Safety and other licensees operating in the band.

This proposal is both a proactive approach to preventing future interference and an effective remedy to existing interference in the 800 MHz band. It is also less expensive to the band users and less burdensome than the "Consensus Plan." The 800 MHz User Coalition's proposal is also preferable to other options now before the Commission on this matter as it affords a practical

Secretary, FCC

June 30, 2003

Page 2

solution to interference, and is equitable. It neither imposes the burden of re-banding on users that are not causing interference, nor does it entail spectrum grants to any one user.

Please contact me or Steve Via at (202) 628-8303 if you would like to discuss the attached.

Best regards,

-- / signed 6/30/03 / --

Thomas W. Curtis
Deputy Executive Director

cc: Chairman Michael Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kevin Martin
John Muleta, Chief

P:\Regulatory\Comments\Nextel WT Docket 02-55 Ex Parte Filing 6 30 03 SHV.doc

Attachment A.

UTC *Ex Parte* Filing on behalf of the 800 MHz User Coalition

Regarding:

WT Docket No. 02-55

Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band

May 29, 2003